(g) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) Prices of more than 350 bulk drugs and several thousand formulations based thereon are controlled under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979. The details required in the question are, therefore quite voluminous and are not readily available. The time and efforts required for collection of these will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

(e) The new Drugs Price Control Order has not been announced by the Government yet.

(f) and (g) Instances of some of the manufacturers charging their own prices pending disposal of their review petitions have come to the notice of the Government.

Objective for creating DPEA

1003. SHRI GHAN SHYAM SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1515 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1987 and state:

(a) what is the objective for which DPEA was created;

(b) whether such a proposal had the approval of Cabinet;

(c) whether DPEA was proposed by a Committee;

(d) if so, the name of the Committee and its members;

(e) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is proposing to abolish DPEA due to administrative problems.

(f) what are the details of the problems and what steps were taken to solve those problems:

(g) whether his Ministry has appointed any Committee to look into the operational difficulties;

(h) if so, what are the details of their report;

(i) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(j) whether his Ministry is proposing to appoint a Committee to look into the problems and report; and

(k) if so, by when the Committee will be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) It is contained in the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The DPCO, 1979 was based on the Drug Policy, 1978.

(e) and (f) The detailed reasons are contained in the "Measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs & Pharmaceutical Industry in India" copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(g) and (i) No, Sir it was not considered necessary to do so.

(h) Does not arise.

(j) and (k) There is no such proposal under consideration for the present.

Price control on Drugs

1004. SHRI GHAN SHYAM SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 550 drugs being extensively used in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is proposing to control the price of only 100 drugs;

(c) whether it is also a fact that around 90 drugs have been identified for category-I;

(d) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is reducing the number to 30 drugs without any basis or justification;

(e) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is proposing to increase the mark up on this category from existing 40 per cent end 55 per cent to 75 per cent;

(f) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has proposed to remove overall profitability of the drug industry;

(g) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is not proposing any expenditure control on drug industry to prevent them from siphoning off profits; and

(h) if so, what are the details of the steps proposed to safeguard the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The exact number of drugs being used in the country is not available.

(b) to (d) The names of drugs to be included in proposed Category-I and II have not been finalised by the Government.

(e) to (h) The details of measures announced by the Government in December, 1986 are contained in the booklet "Measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs & Pharmaceutical Industry in India" copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

Price control on drugs

1005. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently held that price control under the Essential Commodities Act is to protect the consumer and not the producer;

(b) whether it is a fact that the measures proposed by his Ministry in this regard are contrary to provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the recent decision of the Supreme Court;

(c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has proposed measures like expansion of price decontrol on medicines, removal of overall profitability control, irrational classification of medicines for price control and decontrol free hand for trade discount, commission, advertisement expenses;

(d) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has directed to reduce the list of drugs for category-I even after identification; and

(e) if so, how such a price control would be in the consumer's interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The Supreme Court in their judgement have upheld the prices fixed by the Government under Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979 which has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The details are contained in the booklet "Measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs & Pharmaceutical Industry in India". Copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

(d) and (e) Government have not yet finalised the list of drugs which would form proposed Category-I.

Proposal to decontrol prices of drugs

1006. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govt. propose to decontrol the prices of 70 per cent of medicines;